

Filed for intro on 04/29/98

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 860  
By Chumney

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend David Gilmer Yellin and Carol Lynn Yellin for their work in human rights in the Mid-South and beyond.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause and honor those people who through their personal and professional endeavors are credits to their family, their community and their state; and

WHEREAS, two such outstanding people are David Gilmer Yellin and his wife, Carol Lynn Yellin, who have given of their considerable energies and talents to work for civil rights issues in the Mid-South and beyond; and

WHEREAS, after arriving in Memphis from New York City in 1964, David and Carol have consistently spoken eloquently and acted honorably to help promote racial understanding and to tear down barriers between the races; and

WHEREAS, David Yellin has taught television, film and speech in the Communications department of the University of Memphis for over 30 years. In that time his students have gone on to populate television newsrooms, business boardrooms and most every kind of workplace in Memphis, in Tennessee and in the world; and

WHEREAS, David has produced and moderated the public affairs show "Face to Face" on WMC-TV for almost 20 years. He is also the author of three books about television and film, all written while teaching at the University of Memphis; and

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WHEREAS, Carol Yellin is outspoken in her battles to promote women's rights and human rights. She protested at the Shelby County Courthouse for women to be allowed to serve on juries; organized rallies in support of the Equal Rights Amendment; and helped found the Memphis Women's Network and the Memphis Chapter of Women in Communications. She was also a delegate from Tennessee to the 1975 International Women's Conference in Mexico City and to the 1977 National Women's Conference in Houston; and

WHEREAS, Carol is also an author and an editor. She has contributed to or written numerous books and articles about struggles for women's rights and racial justice, including *Tennessee Women: Past and Present* and *Perfect 36: Tennessee Delivers Women's Suffrage*;

WHEREAS, in 1988, on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, David Gilmer Yellin and Carol Lynn Yellin were co-recipients of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Award for their work in documenting the Memphis sanitation workers' strike; and

WHEREAS, David and Carol have been married for almost 50 years. This marriage has been blessed with four children, Chuck, Tom, Doug, and Emily; they in turn have presented their parents with four grandchildren, Peyto, Susan, Chloe, and Isabel; and

WHEREAS, David and Carol Yellin evince their devout religious faith at Neshoba Unitarian Church where they are often called upon to give presentations about their lives together and their work in the community; and

WHEREAS, David Gilmer Yellin and Carol Lynn Yellin are dedicated to uplifting their community and fighting for equality and empowerment among men and women from all sectors of society; and

WHEREAS, David Gilmer Yellin and Carol Lynn Yellin demonstrate the determination, excellence and caring spirit that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we pause in our deliberations to honor and commend David Gilmer Yellin and Carol Lynn Yellin for their dedication to their beliefs, their community, their state, and to each other.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish them every continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.